

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity, an expandable prosthesis having first and second ends, means for releaseably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and a visual marker overlying the prosthesis intermediate the first and second ends and being capable of being seen by the operator in the field of view secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis for facilitating placement of the prosthesis in the mammalian body, the visual marker being visually distinct from the means for releaseably securing the prosthesis.

2. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the means for releaseably securing includes releasing means operable from the proximal extremity of the flexible elongate member.

3. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the means for releaseably securing includes crocheted material extending along at least a portion of the length of the prosthesis.

4. (original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the crocheted material includes a thread having a plurality of loops extending around the prosthesis.

5. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein the visual marker is a colored marker looped around the thread and bound to the prosthesis by the thread.

6. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein the visual marker is an additional thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.

7. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein a portion of the thread is tightly spaced loops around the prosthesis to form the visual marker.

8. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the prosthesis is a stent.

9. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the prosthesis has a first length when secured to the flexible elongate member and a second length different from the first length when released from the flexible elongate member.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein ~~the prosthesis has opposite first and second ends~~, the visual marker ~~being~~ is secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis a distance from one of the first and second ends of the prosthesis equal to the second length to facilitate desired placement of the prosthesis in the cavity.

11. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the prosthesis foreshortens during release from the flexible elongate member, the second length being shorter than the first length so as to reflect such foreshortening.

12. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the visual marker is secured to the prosthesis.

13. (original) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the visual marker includes a colored band extending around the prosthesis.

14. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the means for releaseably securing includes a thread for crocheting the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member, the thread being secured to the colored band so that upon pulling the thread to release the prosthesis the colored band is pulled off the prosthesis and onto the flexible elongate member.

15. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.

16. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the visual marker is a bioabsorbable material extending around a portion of the prosthesis.

17. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein the bioabsorbable material is a gelatin.

Claims 18-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) An apparatus for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity, an expandable prosthesis having a length and first and second ends, means for releaseably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member extending along substantially the entire length of the prosthesis in a repeating pattern ~~for releaseably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member~~ and a visual marker overlying the prosthesis intermediate the first and second ends and being capable of being seen by the operator in the field of view secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis for facilitating placement of the prosthesis in the mammalian body, the visual marker being visually distinct from the repeating pattern of the means for releaseably securing.

24. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread.

25. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the visual marker includes a colored band extending around the prosthesis.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the means for releaseably securing includes crocheted material extending along at least a portion of the length of the prosthesis.

28. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the crocheted material includes a thread having a plurality of loops extending in the repeating pattern around the prosthesis, a portion of the thread being tightly spaced loops different from the repeating pattern to form the visual marker.

29. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the visual marker is an additional thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.

30. (currently amended) An apparatus for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity, an expandable prosthesis, means for releaseably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and a visual marker capable of being seen by the operator under direct visualization overlying the prosthesis and ~~being capable of being seen by the operator in the field of view secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis~~ distinct from the means for releaseably securing for facilitating placement of the prosthesis in the mammalian body, ~~the visual marker being distinct from the means for releaseably securing to facilitate visualization of the marker.~~

31. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread.

32. (withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.

33. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker includes a colored band extending around the prosthesis.

34. (withdrawn and previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.

35. (new) The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the expandable prosthesis has first and second ends, the visual marker overlying the prosthesis intermediate the first and second ends.